

Art and Photography

Our art and photography curriculum teaches students to understand and give meaning to the world we live in. Through our curriculum we aim to provide students with an experience that allows them to combine practical and technological skills with creative thinking. We support our students to aspire through their learning experiences to standards of excellence intellectually, practically, and aesthetically. Each student has the opportunity to experience a variety of resources, techniques, equipment and materials.

In Key Stage 3 students develop their skills and understanding with progressive complexity and sophistication, so that they are able to make informed choices and work with increasing independence into Key Stages 4 and beyond. We develop students' awareness of the impact of art and photography on society and provide them with the knowledge and skill set to achieve highly. Students learn to apply a variety of skills from the national curriculum and wider curriculum together with those specific to art and photography to produce effective and considered art forms.

Throughout our curriculum we will encourage students to enjoy their learning in art and photography and enable them to gain transferable skills that will help them in other curriculum areas and in later life. We aim to enable our students to become:

- successful independent learners who enjoy learning, understand how to make progress and achieve to their potential;
- confident self-managers and team-workers, who are willing to take risks and keep an open-mind about new ideas and techniques;
- responsible citizens aware of the role they play in society and the importance of art and photography in contributing to society;
- Confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.

We use the national curriculum as a basis for our curriculum design and we sequence the students' learning journey so they can build skills, knowledge and understanding from lesson to lesson. At Key Stage 3 we place drawing skills at the forefront of students' learning with skills learnt through drawing such as composition, form, tone and shape which lay the foundation of all visually creative specialisms. We deliver three main projects each year in Key Stage 3 that focus on landscapes, portraiture and still life, whilst covering a range of art forms allows us to adapt learning and lesson focus to the different needs of individual groups. Within these themes, students study a range of other artists, designers and crafts people, gaining knowledge on different art forms, time periods, art movements and techniques.

In each project across Key Stage 3 we use drawing as the starting point before students move onto experience a broader range of different materials and media such as 3D design, fine art, photography and printmaking. We relate our teaching of skills closely to the work of other artists so we can develop the students' knowledge of art history alongside their own work and evaluate the impact that time and history has on the art forms we see today. This helps to embed knowledge and it also gives students opportunities to evaluate the work of others and compare it to their own.

By the end of Key Stage 3 it is our intent that students will be able to draw skilfully, in a range of media for a range of different purposes, have experience of using a broad range of materials to produce an artistic outcome and be able to relate the work they have done to range of different

artists. Students will have the confidence and knowledge to evaluate their own work and the work of others, along with providing clear and constructive feedback to encourage improvements.

Throughout endorsed art in Year 10, we deliver four projects which include fine art, textiles, graphics and 3D design. We build on the knowledge, skills and experiences from Key Stage 3, broadening further the students' experiences with materials, deepening understanding and further developing skills. We focus on students becoming independent learners who can explore their own artistic ideas within the framework of the GCSE assessment objectives.

During Year 10 photography, students build on the skills developed within Key Stage 3. Students look more in depth at technical aspects of taking a high quality image and techniques such as macro, depth of field, lighting, composition and creative editing.

By Year 11, we expect our learners across art and photography to be capable of developing their own and exploring their own ideas fully expressing themselves freely whilst working to further develop their mastery of the techniques and skills they employ in their work

Throughout our curriculum we link our teaching to careers and other subjects across the curriculum, ensuring that students understand that the skills, techniques and knowledge they acquire can be applied to a range of careers. Whether this be the practical artistic skills they have gained, or their ability to be independent, highly motivated, critical thinkers.